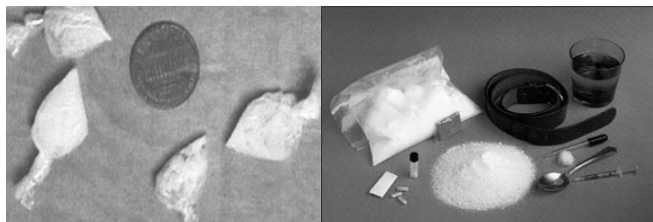


Methamphetamine

What is methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine (meth) is a highly addictive central nervous system stimulant that goes by many different names: speed, crank, meth, crystal, glass, ice, and more.



How is meth used?

Meth can be in a powder or crystal form and can be snorted, orally ingested, smoked or injected. Unfortunately, rates of injection use have skyrocketed and South Dakota now has a much higher percentage of users who are injecting than many other states and even large metropolitan areas.

Where does meth come from?

Most locally available meth comes from "Superlabs" in the Southwestern US or Mexico. Superlabs are meth labs that generally make pounds of meth in one "cook." This meth usually comes into South Dakota from Denver, Salt Lake City and parts of California and the Pacific Northwest.

Some local labs have been found. These labs usually produce an ounce or a few ounces at a time. Although these local labs do not contribute much to the supply of meth, the processing of a lab takes a lot of law enforcement resources that would better be utilized to get the dealers that supply the majority of meth.

What is meth made of?

Meth is produced from a variety of dangerous and toxic items, including pseudoephedrine (cold tablets), anhydrous ammonia, drain cleaner, strong acids and bases, acetone, starting fluid, red phosphorus, and more.



What effects does meth have on the user?

Immediate effects include euphoria, intensified emotions, altered self-esteem, increased alertness, aggression, hyperactivity and sexual appetite.

With increasing use, meth can cause violent and bizarre behavior, confusion, insomnia, severe weight loss, hallucinations, paranoia, severe depression, anhedonia (inability to experience pleasure), homicidal or suicidal thoughts, organ damage, heart attacks or strokes and out-of-control rage.

An overdose of meth could cause dangerously high body temperatures, convulsions, heart attack, stroke or death.

What effects does meth have on the family?

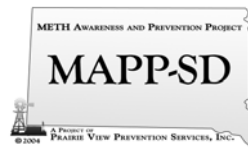
Meth causes an individual's personality and priorities to shift dramatically. Because it can cause dramatic mood swings, violence and paranoia, family members (especially children) of users can be in danger. The binge-and-crash cycle of use can cause children to be left unattended for long periods of time.

Meth labs cause a very toxic environment for children and family members. Exposure to toxic chemicals and meth can cause respiratory problems, rashes, burns, and more. Labs also can explode and cause fires. Some research has also shown that meth smoke can leave residues of meth in a room that can be hazardous to those living there.

What effects does meth have on the community?

Community costs are great and include public expenses for law enforcement, court costs, public defenders and child protective services. Other costs include those associated with increased crime and violence.

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